on the part of Government it is to be remembered that with the limited funds at their disposal Government have to satisfy the evergrowing demands of the rural population as well. While Government are prepared to help the Municipalities to some extent it should be clearly understood that the major part of the burden should be borne by the Municipal Councils themselves. It does not help to solve a problem when the Municipal Council sends back schemes with the observation that the Municipality has no resources to finance them. I must frankly say that, when compared with the District Municipalities in the Madras Presidency, the level of taxation in the Municipalities of this State is extraordinarily low. The Municipal Councils will have to face the problem boldly. The level of taxation in the Municipal areas will have to be raised to enable the Municipalities to find adequate funds for financing these schemes. It is because that certain Municipal Councils have not shown any tendency to face the problem in this manner that the schemes intended for the improvement of these towns are being held up.

25. I find that if the schemes of town improvement are to be effectively carried out with minimum cost for public and Municipal funds, legislation is necessary in this respect. Government have already appointed a Departmental Committee to draft the necessary legislation for town improvement. Powers will be taken for the creation of Town Improvement Trusts and for speedy acquisition of properties so that the schemes can be carried out with the maximum efficiency and minimum expenditure.

Recruitment to the Services.

26. It was during my last budget speech that I announced the appointment of the Staff Selection Board and the acceptance by Government of the principle of communal representation for recruitment in the public services. During the Legislative Council sitting on the 11th February 1936, a Resolution was adopted recommending to Government that a Public Service Commission or a Staff Selection Board with definite rules of communal rotation should be constituted in the State for recruitment to the public services in order to give adequate representation to all the communities in the State. Soon after this motion was passed a Departmental Committee was appointed for examining the question and the final orders of Government were passed at the time of the commencement of

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the last budget session. Immediately after my announcement, the necessary rules were framed and the Board was set up consisting of three officers of Government, namely, the Secretary to Government, the Diwan Peishkar and the Government Advocate. The Board has now been working for nearly 9 months and I am able to say that during this period not a single appointment was made without reference to the Staff Selection Board and not a single recommendation of the Staff Selection Board was negatived by Government. During the last few months since the Board came into existence Government made 662 appointments on the recommendation of the Board. Of these 134 appointments have gone to the Ezhuvas, 93 to other backward and the depressed classes, 166 to Christians of all denominations, 110 to Nayars, 71 to other Hindu communities, 31 to Tamil Brahmins, 42 to Muslims, 2 to Pulayas and 13 to Jews, Anglo-Indians and other small communities. It was only in the case of the Pulaya community that the Board was unable to get suitable applicants. In all other cases, the communities have obtained places assured to them under the Staff Selection Rules. No favouritism of any sort has been shown to either particular communities or individuals. I can boldly claim that our rules relating to communal representation and the working of the Staff Selection Board are as simple and straigbtforward as any that can be devised; and I am convinced that the most impartial justice has been meted out to all the communities by the Board. I have heard some complaints here and there of alleged injustice. When I asked for definite instances I have not been supplied with any. Let me assure the Honourable Members and the public at large that it is the intention of Government to carry out in the most effective manner possible the policy that has been laid down. If any cases of what may appear to be an injustice are brought to the notice of Government they would be examined most carefully and any change that may be necessary in the rules or methods of recruitment will be made to obviate such cases of injustice. I must however sound a note of warning. The whole scheme is intended to protect the interests of all the communities in the State. It is not intended to show favouritism to any particular individuals. Disappointed individuals may try to make out that injustice has been done. But what the public will have to decide is whether the claims of the communities in question have been satisfied. So long as a member from a particular community has been recruited by the Board it is not for outsiders to say whether another member of the same community hould have been selected rather than the one on whom the

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choice of the Board fell. The case for communal justice will be weakened if too much attention is bestowed on the claims of individuals. Apart from complaints which may be based upon legitimate grounds there has been an insidious attempt made in certain quarters to belittle the whole scheme and to persuade certain backward communities that not enough has been done for them. It is for the leaders of such communities to warn their brethren against this kind of insidious propaganda which is being carried on with ulterior motives. The figures that I have given are the most effective answer to any criticism about the scheme as a whole or its working in practice. Members of certain backward communities have only to compare the figures of recruitment during the last 9 months with what prevailed in the past to satisfy themselves whether justice is being meted out to them.

Council Resolutions and Government.

27. One other important matter in which the wishes of this House have been carried out is the appointment of the Franchise Committee. It was only in the last budget session that the Council urged upon Government the need for lowering the franchise. A very good committee, presided over by the ex-Chief Judge, Mr. Sahasranama Ayyar, is now engaged in examining the whole question of franchise and I am hoping that their report would be available in time to enable Government to carry on the normal election programme during next year.

28. In the two matters referred to above, namely the appointment of the Staff Selection Board and the institution of a Franchise Committee, Government have shown their readiness to respond to reasonable demands made by the Legislative Council. Within the last two years that I have been in charge of the Administration of the State, I have accepted a number of major recommendations of the Legislative Council and have given effect to them. The complaint relating to the licensing of arecanut markets, the appointment of the Retrenchment Committee, the appointment of the Franchise Committee, the institution of Debt Conciliation Board, publication of text books under the auspices of Government, the establishment of the Land Mortgage Bank and the institution of the Staff Selection Board and the recognition of communal representation in the services, are but a few examples of the major recommendations of this House which have been given effect to by Government. In the light of this record, I would leave it to the public to judge the validity of the criticism

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